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Very
COPY

July 21, 2010

Phil Isenberg
Chairman, Delta Stewardship Council
650 Capitol Mall, Fifth Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chairman Isenberg:

I attended and submitted a preliminary statement to the first meeting of the Risk Reduction and Coequal Goals Workgroup on Thursday, July 8, 2010. Because of the short notice provided, I was unable to have the statement reviewed by the Central Delta Water Agency Board of Directors, the South Delta Water Agency Board of Directors and the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors, prior to the meeting.

In the interim, the statement has been reviewed by the Central Delta and South Delta Boards and you'll find a slightly amended copy of that statement enclosed herewith. The San Joaquin County is providing a separate more comprehensive statement under the signature of C. Mel Lytle, PhD, Water Resources Coordinator for the County.

The short notice provided for the second meeting of the Workgroup will prevent me the opportunity to attend due to previous scheduling conflicts. Delta agencies are eager, however, to help formulate a risk reduction plan for the Delta both on an interim and long term basis and will endeavor to stay engaged in the formulation of same. The approach outlined in the enclosed statement should provide a constructive approach to addressing the problem and one that would enjoy broad support within the Delta community.

I look forward to reading subsequent drafts of your Interim Plan.

Yours very truly,



THOMAS M. ZUCKERMAN

TMZ:csf
Enclosure

cc: ✓ Joe Grindstaff, Executive Officer, Delta Stewardship Council
Dante J. Nomellini, Sr., Central Delta Water Agency
John Herrick, South Delta Water Agency
C. Lytle, San Joaquin County Flood Control & Water Conservation District

**DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL
RISK REDUCTION AND COEQUAL GOALS WORKGROUP
THURSDAY, July 8, 2010**

Submitted by Thomas M. Zuckerman for the
Central and South Delta Water Agencies

This statement is limited to the topic of risk reduction which I understand to be the focus of the first meeting and amends slightly the written statement presented at the Workgroup meeting.

Historically, risk reduction programs in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta area have been based upon local initiatives. The sponsors of most of the projects have either been local reclamation districts or county flood control districts, all of which have been supported in various degrees by state and federal cost share programs. There is no reason to believe that future projects would be improved by foregoing the local initiative in favor of direct federal or state implemented projects.

There are, however, two important roles for the state and federal governments.

A. Flood Management Plan. Pursuant to SB 5 (Machado) and related state legislation, the Department of Water Resources is currently developing a flood management plan for the Central Valley of California. This plan, once completed, should describe the Design Flood, incorporating some assumptions about future climate change. Based upon an adopted Design Flood, portions of historical flood plains and current and new flood bypasses will be designated along with their utility for water supply and environmental restoration. Local land use decisions will need to be consistent with these designations.

B. Cost Sharing. Here we are not writing on a "blank slate." Existing cost sharing programs have very effectively supported local reclamation districts and county flood control district projects. Reliable funding for cost sharing programs from the state and federal governments are a necessary ingredient in this process. The local programs understand the need to maintain levees at appropriate degrees of flood risk on all the major islands within the Delta and its up-stream tributaries and the need to restore levees in the event of failure.

The existing programs create an effective "prioritization" by limiting cost sharing based upon the land uses within the levee systems. In other words, agricultural islands are protected by "agricultural levees" whereas islands that protect urban population and important infrastructure are protected by levees based upon lower risk tolerance design and sometimes include additional cost sharing from individual direct beneficiaries. Purchasing development entitlement and flood easements on islands and historical flood plains designated by the flood management plan should be part of this program to provide fair compensation for lost opportunities.

The current process of approval of the state cost sharing by the Central Valley Flood Control Board on an annual basis provides appropriate opportunity for regional coordination in the context of the developing Flood Management Plan in accordance with appropriate risk tolerance design, habitat restoration, water supply opportunities and beneficiary pays principles.

As stated above, these concepts will be reviewed further by the Central and South Delta Water Agency Boards and perhaps San Joaquin County Flood Control and may undergo some expansion and/or revision which we will keep you advised of as it occurs.